

# COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

WALTER G. SMITH : : : : : EDITOR.  
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## HURRAH FOR THE PRECEDENT.

President Roosevelt is said to contemplate establishing a precedent by visiting Panama early in November aboard a warship, to take personal observation of the work being done on the Isthmian Canal. In this connection a writer of the Tribune staff in Washington says that the President "could, if he were able to spare the time, visit Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines, as there is nothing in the law, written or unwritten, to prevent." The writer goes on to say:

"Objection is likely to be raised in certain quarters that the President will set at defiance the old idea that the Chief Executive must not go outside of the limits of the United States while in office. But he may reply to this that to go to Panama would be no worse than sailing from New Orleans to Washington, a feat he accomplished last year. On that journey he was taken outside the 'three league limits' more than once, was often out of sight of land, in fact, and still the Constitution of the United States survived and the Capitol rested calmly upon its foundations.

"The old sentiment became common long before the United States acquired any possessions beyond the seas. The canal zone is part and parcel of this country, and it is the right, as well as the duty, of the President to make himself acquainted with all parts of the territory."

## THE AGRARIAN OUTBREAK.

A dispatch the middle of the past week stated that the agrarian movement in Russia had developed a new phase in the form of a struggle between peasants who own land and those who do not. Bloody conflicts were reported from several places. It was added that the estates of the nobility in the province of Saratoff were reported to be in flames. Hitherto, as a recent reviewer has pointed out, the muzhiks, as the peasants are called, "have been the one large element in Russia's population which has not challenged the Emperor's autocracy." Therefore the fact that many muzhiks had joined the revolutionary groups, which had been strengthened by the rapidly increasing number of disaffected urban industrialists, was taken to indicate a peasant attitude which was especially to be feared by the dynasty.

In this connection the reviewer just mentioned says: "The agrarian question has always been the basic problem in Russian economics; it is now the most urgent problem in Russian politics. Unless speedily solved, it may lead to revolution. As Russia is less urban than any other European state, and as the revolutionary centers are found naturally in the towns, not in the country, the peasants are not well organized for revolt. They could not have advanced as far as they have in readiness for an armed conflict on their own account had there not been long, energetic, adroit and persistent incitement by revolutionary agitators from the towns."

That such incitement of the peasantry was of most inscrupulous character a writer a few months ago showed. According to this authority the revolutionary agitators traded on the fanatical loyalty of the peasants so as to cause them to make an incendiary raid upon the estates of the aristocratic landlords with the sincere conviction that they were obeying a divine command. Part of the people's religion is that the Czar is the personal representative of the Deity. Therefore it was an irresistible impulse to the spoiling of the landlords they received, all the stronger from inclusion of the promise of landed independence at long last for themselves, when they were made to believe that a decree had gone forth from the "Little Father" that they should possess themselves of the lands and goods of their landlords. It was told by the narrator of the circumstances of that particular outbreak of the peasantry that amidst their destructive and predatory fury they were, in many instances, very careful not to injure the persons of the suddenly overtaken landlord class. They even expressed sympathy with them in their disaster, some who had been well treated as tenants evincing deep emotion. Possibly it is a turning of the same trick by the revolutionists, in a new place, which has produced the result cabled last week, of the burning of estates of the nobility in the province of Saratoff.

No doubt there has long existed the fuel of a revolutionary conflagration amongst the muzhiks, only needing to be ignited by clever hands or through the spontaneous combustion of long-deferred hopes regarding the land. It has been a hard row the muzhik has had to hoe. More than forty years ago, before the Russian serfs were emancipated from slavery, about two hundred and eighty million acres of land belonged to the noblemen. In the process of emancipation these owners were compelled to sell seventy million acres to the peasants. The Government opened the way for each muzhik, or freed serf, to become at once a landed proprietor of from five to twenty-five acres by furnishing him the money to be returned in forty-nine annual payments. But in many cases the prices exacted were exorbitant, while the allotments were too small. "Since that time," an Outlook writer says, "the Russian agrarian population, constituting four-fifths of the total population, has nearly doubled. Yet there has been no increase in the allotments, off which many muzhiks are now unable to live; still less are they able to pay their present instalments of purchase money together with the alarming arrears." Then there has been a great increase of taxes, besides all the other miseries brought on by the Russo-Japanese war. Upon top of all comes famine in twenty provinces. Recently a correspondent of the London Tribune said that many were lying prostrate in their huts, dying from lack of food and from the epidemics that follow in the wake of famine. Yet in this desperate situation of the peasants the Minister of the Interior, fearing the contact of revolutionists with them, had ordered all soup kitchens opened without permission of the local governors to be shut, closing what in some cases were the only channels of relief.

Is it any wonder that there are frequent tidings of the assassination of governors and their instruments the police? Yet it is deplorable to learn that the fury of the peasantry has developed suicidal practices. With regard to the agrarian uprising of a month ago a correspondent of the New York Sun stated that in certain provinces one could travel for distances of fifty miles and not find any large country house standing. The muzhiks had destroyed everything. Not only the buildings, family treasures and agricultural implements of the landed proprietors, but "millions of bushels of grain—rye, wheat, barley, oats—and thousands of tons of fodder have been burned or scattered in the mire and that, too, when the poor creatures themselves were short of bread and fodder and dependent upon Government aid. The sheep, bred on a large scale on the fine grass steppes east of the Volga, have been slaughtered wholesale, left to rot and breed infection."

Two methods of producing additional food supplies are mooted, one being the increase of land holdings and the other the increase of land productivity. It is pointed out that a disparity in the productiveness of the land owned by the muzhiks and that owned by the large proprietors has arisen not only because the latter were clever enough to retain the best soil, but also because they employed more modern methods of cultivation. A large proportion of the peasantry, including not only the revolutionists but those remaining peaceable, "fancy that all their woes come from insufficiency of land, and that their wrongs can be righted only by forcible and wholesale expropriation." Accordingly, through their representatives in the lower house of Parliament, "they have been demanding the expropriation in their favor of all the lands belonging to the crown, the church and private proprietors." Yet it is said that such a scheme, providing all the landless peasants received an average equal quantity of land with the present peasant holders, would increase individual holdings by not more than two acres. If the operation were accomplished by payment, a loan amounting to something like three billion dollars, with annual interest of a hundred and fifty millions, would be required. Forcible acquisition of the lands, on the other hand, would involve revolution. Minister Stchinsky recently made an important concession in the Duma, on behalf of the Czar, when he declared that the Government had at its disposal 25,000,000 acres of land, which would be sold to the muzhiks on time, through the Peasants' Bank, the payments not commencing for several years. Nearly nine million acres of the amount were in private estates, the owners of which had announced their readiness to sell, and it was believed that thousands of other landowners would be willing to dispose of their holdings at reasonable prices. Another element of relief presented was the purpose of the Government to colonize Siberia and Central Asia. Further, the Government expected to improve the existent primitive and unproductive agricultural methods of the peasantry.

The Constitutional Democrats, who are in a large majority in the Duma, are prepared to pay a price for expropriated land. They would not confiscate crown and church lands, but lease them. Moreover, their plan respects the private ownership of large estates, also the vested interests of communes, municipalities, and educational and benevolent institutions. An article on this subject in the Outlook, from which a portion of the foregoing information is derived, concludes in these words:

"The agrarian program of the Constitutional Democrats has been explained

in the Duma partly by peasant orators, who in grasp of the subject have completely changed the general opinion as to the intelligence of the Russian muzhik, and partly by better trained urban orators, who have exhibited an unexpected political force and balance. To enact this program in legislation there need be no revolution, and, if the program is enacted, a reasonable degree of prosperity should be assured to the muzhik."

All friends of peace and well-wishers of the Russian peasantry must feel profound regret should this fair prospect of amicable settlement of the agrarian problem be dashed to the ground by the developing of the latest peasant uprising into a widespread revolutionary outbreak, the issue of which might possibly be another half century of grinding oppression for the poor muzhiks. By maintaining in potency and improving in form the promising system of popular representative government which they have gained, the Russians will have furnished history with a revolution as beneficent and grand as any that the world has ever witnessed. Every problem of the Empire which its parliament may be able peacefully to solve will advance such a consummation.

## KAUAI CRIMINAL CALENDAR IS LONG

LIHUE, Kauai, July 7.—The July Term of the 5th Circuit Court opened here on Thursday, July 5. Judge J. Hardy presiding, and John D. Willard, Deputy Attorney General and County Attorney conducting the prosecutions. The grand jury, E. H. W. Broadbent, foreman, returned true bills in the following cases:

Territory of Hawaii vs. Wada, embezzlement.  
Territory of Hawaii vs. Tonoda, assault with a weapon.  
Territory of Hawaii vs. Hasegawa, gross cheat.  
Territory of Hawaii vs. Ah Sam, larceny, and receiving stolen goods.  
Territory of Hawaii vs. Aloia, permitting gambling, three indictments.  
Territory of Hawaii vs. Tai Lan, permitting gambling, four indictments.  
Territory of Hawaii vs. Tai Lan, gambling, four indictments.  
Territory of Hawaii vs. M. Yukichi, gambling, two indictments.  
Territory of Hawaii vs. Y. Ishisaki, manslaughter.  
The grand jury was discharged today.

These cases, with those continued from the March term, make a long calendar.

Geo. D. Gear, A. Perry and Wm. T. Rawlins, Honolulu attorneys, are in attendance at court.

The trial jurors will assemble on Monday, the 9th inst.

## UNDERGOES SERIOUS OPERATION

When the liner Siberia arrived Sunday, Chief Officer Arthur O'Neill was on duty as usual. After seeing that his ship was securely moored O'Neill complained of pains in his abdomen, but remained on duty until he saw everything snug for the night. He was unable to get up Monday morning and Tuesday night was operated on for appendicitis. He is in a local hospital receiving the best care that can be obtained, and the prospects for his recovery are said to be good. O'Neill is considered one of the most valuable officers in the Pacific Mail Company's service and both his shipmates and company officials are deeply concerned over his serious illness. The operation was successful and the doctors believe his rugged constitution will enable him to pull through all right.—Chronicle.



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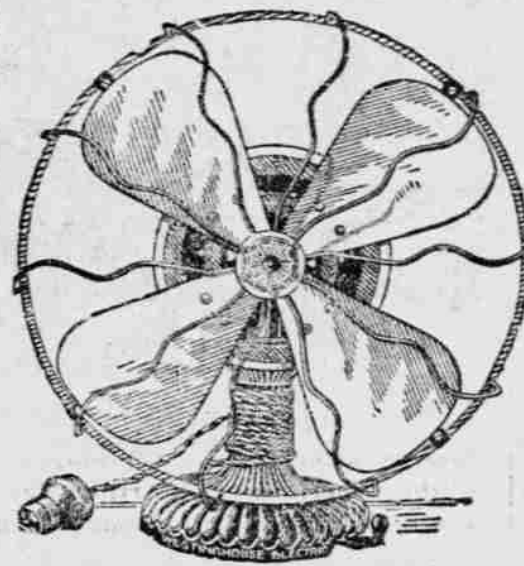
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